

Public Hearing for the RI Renewable Energy Fund (the “Fund”)

Rules and Regulations

December 13, 2012

1:00 p.m.

Attendees: Mr. Seth Handy, Mr. Chris Kearns, Mr. Bob Chew, Mr. Doug Sabetti, Mr. Paul Reducha, Mr. John Vit, Ms. Karina Lutz, Mr. Bill Ferguson, Mr. Julian Dash, Mr. Vito Buonomano, Ms. Hannah Morini, Ms. Sherri Carrera, Mr. Jay R. Peabody, Esq.

Ms. Morini opened the meeting at 1:05 p.m. and thanked everyone for coming and read the following statement:

On November 13, 2013, pursuant to provisions of RIGL 42-35, 42-46, as amended, a notice was posted in the Providence Journal and on the websites of Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation and the Rhode Island Office of the Secretary of State and was forwarded to interested parties announcing a public comment period to accept comments on the adoption of the proposed “Adoption of the 2013 Rules and Regulations for the Renewable Energy Development Fund Program” pursuant to RIGL 39-26-7 enacted June 15, 2012.. The noticed stated that a public hearing would be held on December 13, 2013 at 1:00pm in the Narragansett Room of the RI Economic Development Corporation. Copies of the proposed

regulations were made available at www.riedc.com , www.sos.ri.gov, by calling RIEDC at 278-9100 or by writing to the RI Economic Development Corporation at 315 Iron Horse Way Ste. 101 Providence, RI.

Ms. Morini explained that the program for next year will consist of three major programs:

- Funding of residential scale projects
- Commercial development
- Pre-development feasibility studies

Also, an advisory council is being created that will help the staff of RIEDC Renewable Energy Fund with decision making and provide more transparency.

Several comments were received via email; these will be kept on file at RIEDC.

The hearing was opened to those wanting to testify.

Mr. Seth Handy from Handy Law representing the Town of Portsmouth: he has been hearing from folks in the industry that there may be a better way to structure the economics around the Fund to make more projects happen. For the kinds of projects that are being attracted, payback more than five years is excessive to people in the market; a higher amount of availability of a revolving loan program

might make these projects more feasible.

Mr. Chris Kearns said that Office of Energy Resources and Director Gold support the new regulations.

Mr. Bob Chew commented on the shade analysis. He suggested putting a cap on different types of projects.

Mr. Doug Sabetti from Newport Solar noted that the grouping of the projects on the application and minimum being five is a hindrance to his business; he would like this number reduced or eliminated.

Ms. Morini stated that comments can be accepted until noontime on December 14, 2012. Any questions can also be addressed to her outside of the meeting.

Mr. Paul Reducha from Providence Energy Group also commented on the grouping and questioned the logic behind it. He noted that shading can be dealt with based on technology. He also commented that solar thermal is based on square footage and he questioned if that is the proper measuring tool (vs. BTU).

Mr. John Vit commented on deadlines; he suggested adding one more date for the completed applications.

Ms. Karina Lutz from People's Power and Light suggested adding

weights for most restorative or the least environmental impact.

Mr. Bill Ferguson, Energy Council of RI suggested improving the administration of the program and funds. He agrees with the revolving loan fund idea, and he also feels the grouping requirement impedes on small businesses.

Mr. Julian Dash of Clean Economic Development feels that this process and the rules have vastly improved from what was in place previously. The focus on commercialization and the updates to feasibility are both positives. He feels that an economic analysis would show that funding for projects via revolving loan or grant would result in extremely long payback, possibly 8 years or longer.

Mr. Vito Buonomano of Northeast Solar: he feels the grouping of projects should be eliminated, and that Rhode Island companies should be given preference. He also feels that Rhode Island should not put funding into solar hot water as they are obsolete. Shading makes no sense to Mr. Buonomano and he said it has very little effect on a solar system.

Mr. Dash added that it makes sense to marry renewable energy and efficiency. Funding should require the energy audit prior to final payment.

Mr. Raducha noted that funds from the ACP should not be used to

retire or go against the RES for National Grid.

Ms. Morini closed the meeting by re-emphasizing that comments can be accepted until noontime on December 14, 2012 and thanks everyone for their comments and attendance.

Public comments and meeting closed at 1:36 p.m.